



**OFFICE OF THE  
MAYOR  
VAUGHN D. SPENCER**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

## **NEIL SELDMAN TALKS ABOUT BRINGING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY JOBS TO READING**

Neil Seldman, Director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, based in Washington, DC and Minneapolis, MN, spoke to an audience of 50 community, Labor and business leaders as well as interested citizens in City Council Chambers in City Hall today. After an announcement by Reading Mayor Vaughn Spencer of the formation of the Mayor's Sustainability Committee, Seldman spoke for about 40 minutes on the success around the country of Cities like Eugene, OR that have utilized environmentally friendly businesses to create jobs and economic development similar to what Mayor Spencer plans on bringing to Reading.

Seldman focused on recycling and reusable resource businesses that can be brought to Reading to provide sustainable jobs and help the environment at the same time. "These are good jobs, family sustaining jobs that lower the cost of living for these cities where these businesses are based. Jobs in the reuse industry are the highest form of recycling. We're not trying to do anything new, we're trying to expand on what's currently being done," Seldman said. "By bringing recycling in-house to control it better and get better benefits from it, Reading has a recycling infrastructure that is allowing it to be the basis for attracting the types of companies that could take you to another stage of economic development," he went on to say.

Seldman mentioned three possible businesses that could bring these types of jobs to Reading. One is a Canadian paper recycling company that is looking to expand to the United States. The second is a plastics manufacturing business that uses recycled plastic to make consumer products, and the third is Saint Vincent De Paul, a national nonprofit company that specializes in refurbishing household items like mattresses, appliances and electronic devices. "Reading is miles ahead of other U.S. Cities with these companies, because the administration called them back," Seldman said to laughter from the audience.

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